

REMARKS

1. The Summary of Invention section and claim 1 have been amended to clarify the definition of a conventional, prior art roof truss. No new matter has been added as this description is inherent in the definition of "roof truss" and is shown in Figure 1.

As referred to above, roof trusses are known in the prior art to be structural members having a top chord, a bottom chord, and intermediate members which form triangular shapes. Please see the attached definition of "truss", "web", "bottom chord" and "top chord" from the Internet Website of Alpine Engineered Products, Inc.

The present invention is an improved roof truss, which adds the element of a bottom plate, disposed below the bottom chord. This is best seen in Figure 1 of the present invention. It is important to consider that the bottom plate is a separate element from the bottom chord, not part of the bottom chord.

2. Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 8, 10-11, 13-16 as being anticipated by the Kost reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Kost reference.

The Kost reference teaches pre-manufactured wall frames – there is absolutely no teaching of roof trusses. Examiner referred to Figure 12 and stated that element 6 is equivalent to a bottom chord. It is in fact not the bottom chord of a roof truss, it is the top plate of a wall frame. That is clearly stated at column 8, line 4 of the Kost reference.

3. Examiner has rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by the Gottlieb reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Gottlieb reference.

Gottlieb teaches a novel web for a joist-style roof truss, where the top chord (18) is parallel to the bottom chord (20). Please note that there are no elements attached

above the top chord (18). Element 18 is the uppermost member described in this document – it is not a bottom chord. Element 20 is not a bottom plate disposed underneath the bottom chord – it is the bottom chord.

4. Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 7 as being anticipated by the Knoth reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Knoth reference.

Knoth discloses a conventional roof truss attached to a wall frame with a novel tie-down strap. Element 16, shown in Figure 1, is the top plate of the wall frame (see column 3, line 27). It is not a bottom plate. Figure 1 shows a conventional assembly of a roof truss to a wall frame. The invention disclosed by Knoth is the tie down strap, element 60.

5. Examiner has rejected claims 1, 5 as being anticipated by the Bodtker reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Bodtker reference.

Bodtker teaches an adjustable roof support structure. It does disclose or teach roof trusses.

6. Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 6 as being anticipated by the Eberle reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Eberle reference.

Eberle discloses unique runners (6) which extend between conventional framing members such as the conventional floor joists (2) seen in Figures 1 and 2. Again, there is no disclosure of roof trusses in this document.

7. Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 9 as being anticipated by the Reinen reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Reinen reference.

Reinen does not teach or disclose roof trusses in any manner. Reinen does teach a unique bracket for joining cross-members of wood frame construction.

8. Examiner has rejected claim 17 as being anticipated by the Australian Symonds reference. With respect, it is submitted that claim 1 is not anticipated by the Symonds reference.

Symonds does disclose a joist style truss having a top chord (4), a bottom chord (5) and web members (14). Examiner has identified element 4 as being a bottom chord. It is clearly a top chord, as it is clearly identified as a "upper horizontal member" in the disclosure at column 4, line 51. It is shown in the drawings as the uppermost member in the construction.

9. Applicant acknowledges that formal corrected drawings will be required upon an indication of allowability.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Perrault, et al.

By:


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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Clean, replacement pages for the amended description and claim 1.

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Bar Code



22828

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Blacklined copy of description on 09/713,296

page 2, line 17 add the following paragraph:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A conventional roof truss comprises a top chord, a bottom chord and at least two intermediate members which form triangular shapes in combination with either the bottom chord or the top chord.

page 7, lines 6 to 21, change to read:

An adequate number of connectors (16) are provided, spaced an appropriate distance apart, such that the bottom plate (14) and the relevant ceiling finish (30) are adequately supported by the roof truss (10). The connectors (16) may be any appropriate connector. In one embodiment the connectors are wood fasteners (20), such as nails, screws or other appropriate wood fasteners, which have been driven through the bottom plate (14) into the underside of the bottom chord (12). In another embodiment, shown in Figure 14, the connectors are gang plates (17). Gang plates (17) are commonly used in the assembly of wood roof trusses to attach the various pieces of wood together. Gang plates (17) are metal sheets having pointed tangs protruding from one surface. In use, the gang plate (17) is positioned so as to overlap the joint between pieces of wood, and the pointed tangs are forced into the wood thus attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord. In another embodiment the connectors (16) are comprised of hangers (18) attached with wood fasteners (20). The hangers (18) may be metal or nonmetal, and may be H-shaped hangers (22) as shown in Figure 6, U-shaped hangers (24) as shown in Figures 7 and 8, wrap-around hangers (23) as shown in Figure 5, or some other appropriate form of hanger. The wood fasteners (20) may be nails, screws, staples, or some other appropriate wood fastener.

page 8, lines 5-13 change to read:

The connectors (16) may be removable in many different ways. In one embodiment, the wood fasteners (20) attaching the hangers ~~(18)~~ to the bottom chord (12) or the bottom plate (14) can be removed, making it simple to remove the hangers ~~(18)~~.

In one embodiment the connectors (16) are frangible, in that they can be cut or broken so that all or selected portions of the bottom plate (14) may be detached from the bottom chord (12) by cutting or breaking the connectors ~~(18)~~ (16). For example, the connectors ~~(18)~~ (16) may be made frangible by rows of perforations across the connector which can be broken by prying with the claw of a claw hammer or a pry bar; or by using a hammer and chisel. Figure 15 shows a U-shaped hanger (24) having such perforations (38).

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1. An improved roof truss comprising a bottom chord, a top chord and at least two intermediate members creating a triangular shape with one of the top or bottom chords, wherein the improvement comprises:

- a) a bottom plate disposed beneath the bottom chord ~~roof truss~~; and
- b) means for attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord ~~roof truss~~ which allows separation of the bottom plate from the bottom chord ~~roof truss~~ when the bottom plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the roof truss rises relative to the interior partition wall.

Clean copy of claim 1 for 09/713,296

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- a) a bottom plate disposed beneath the bottom chord; and
- b) means for attaching the bottom plate to the bottom chord which allows separation of the bottom plate from the bottom chord when the bottom plate is attached to an interior partition wall and the roof truss rises relative to the interior partition wall.